How to become a Dragon

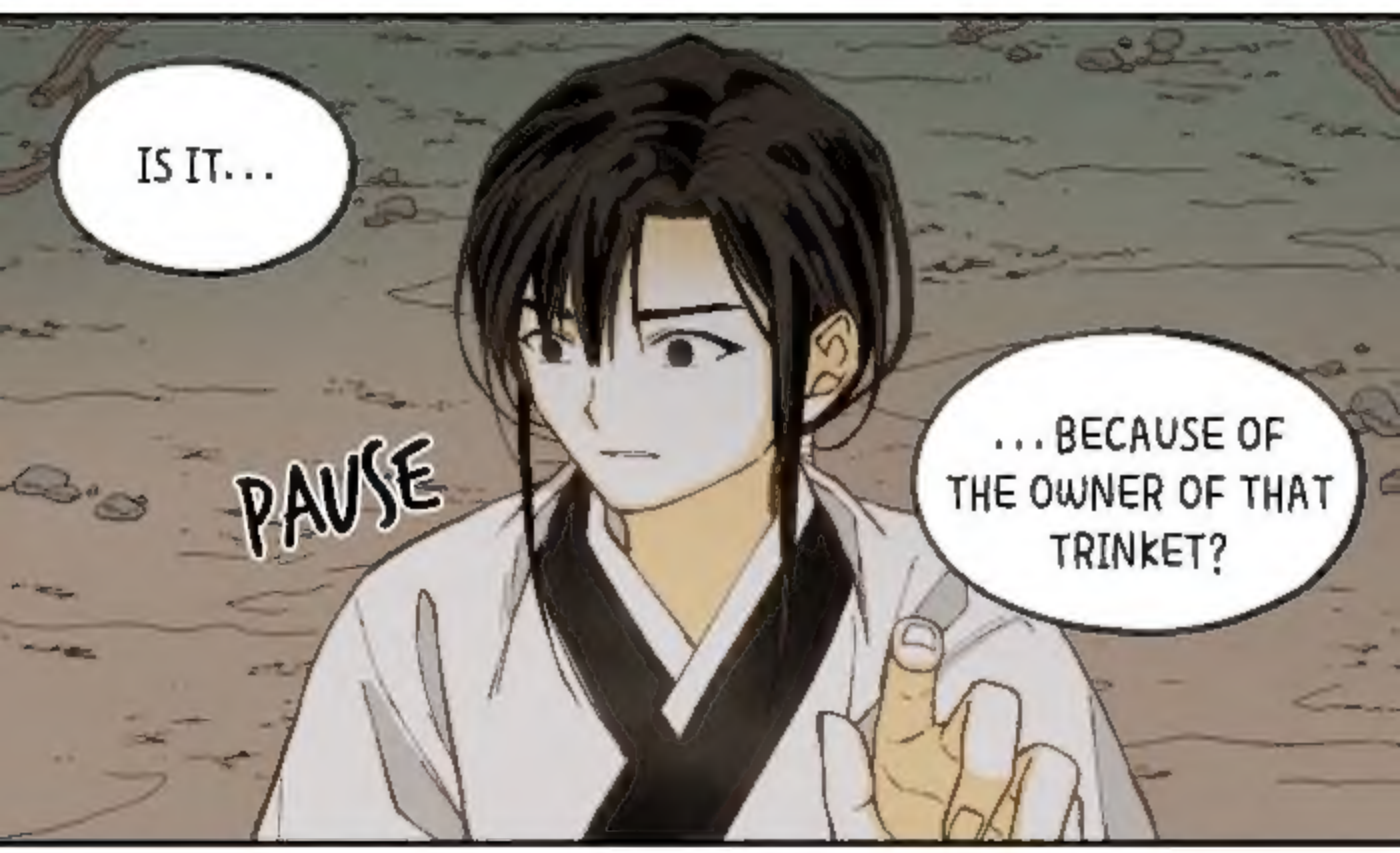
- EPISODE 157 -

...TO BECOME A DRAGON.

YOU WANT TO BECOME A DRAGON...
...
...AND DIE.

NOW, NOW...
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING...?

I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU MEAN.
WHAT NONSENSE...

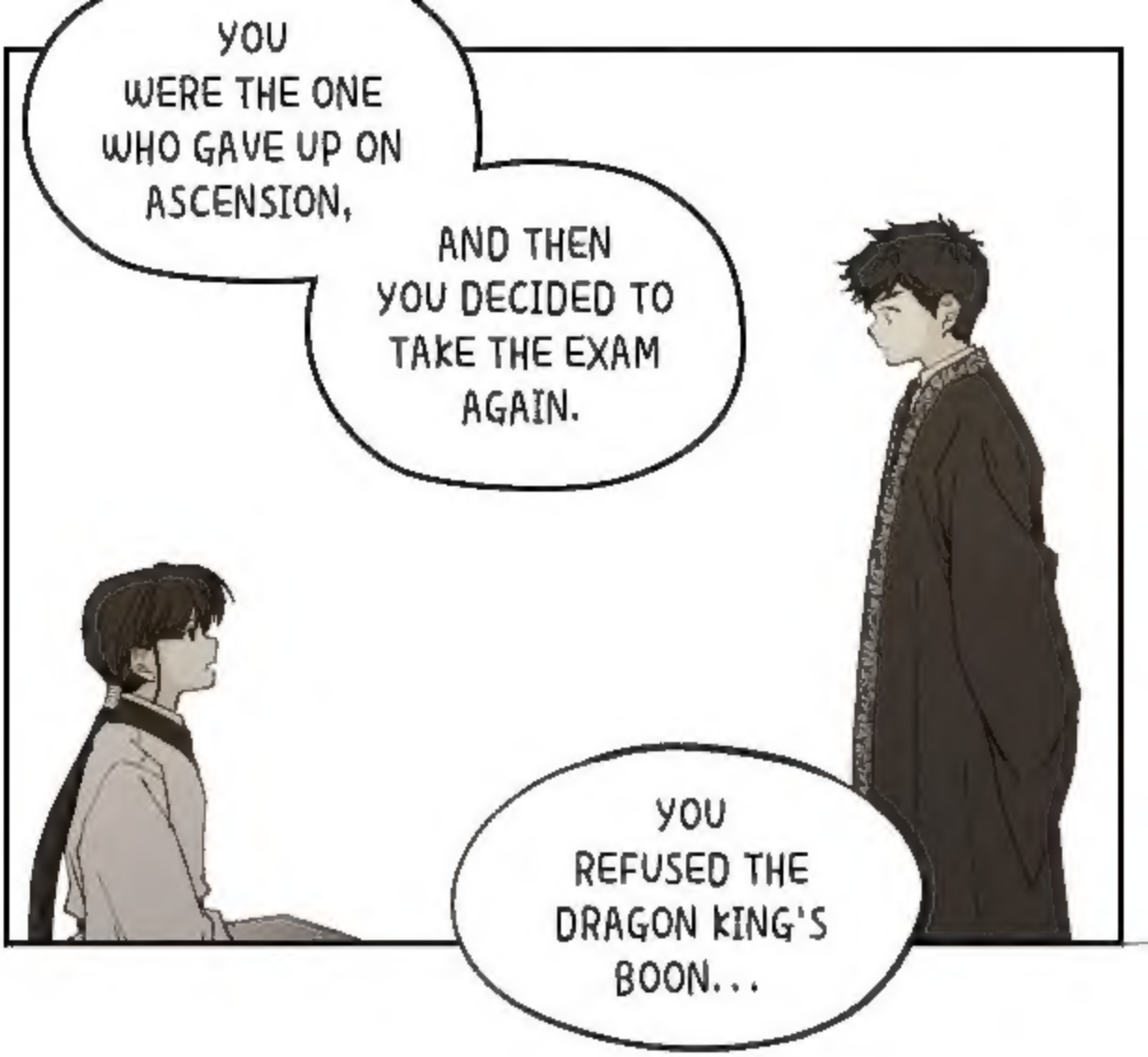

IS IT...
PAUSE
...BECAUSE OF THE OWNER OF THAT TRINKET?

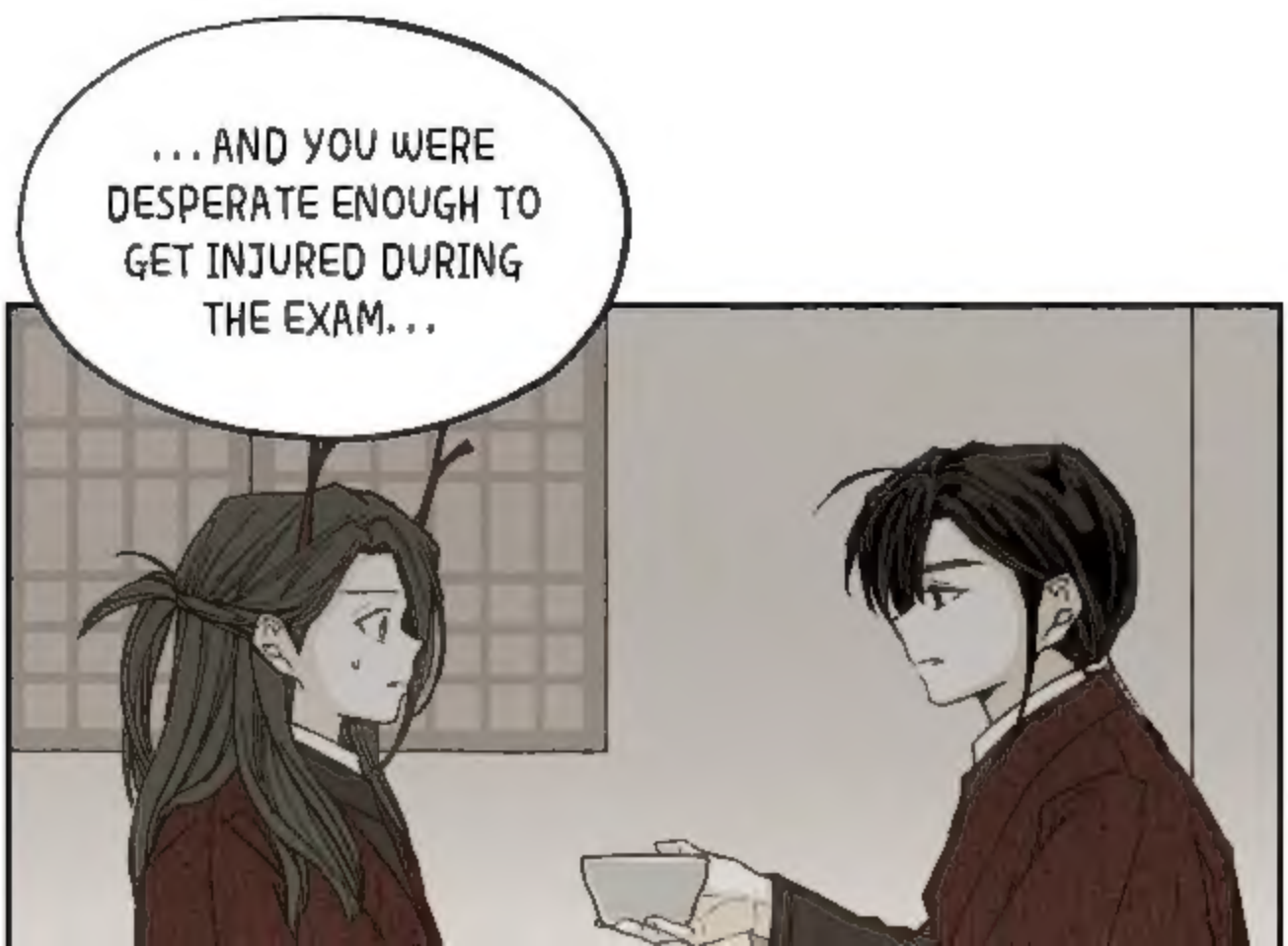
I'M TALKING ABOUT THE TRINKET YOU BROUGHT TO THE LIGHT...
DURING
IT BELONGED

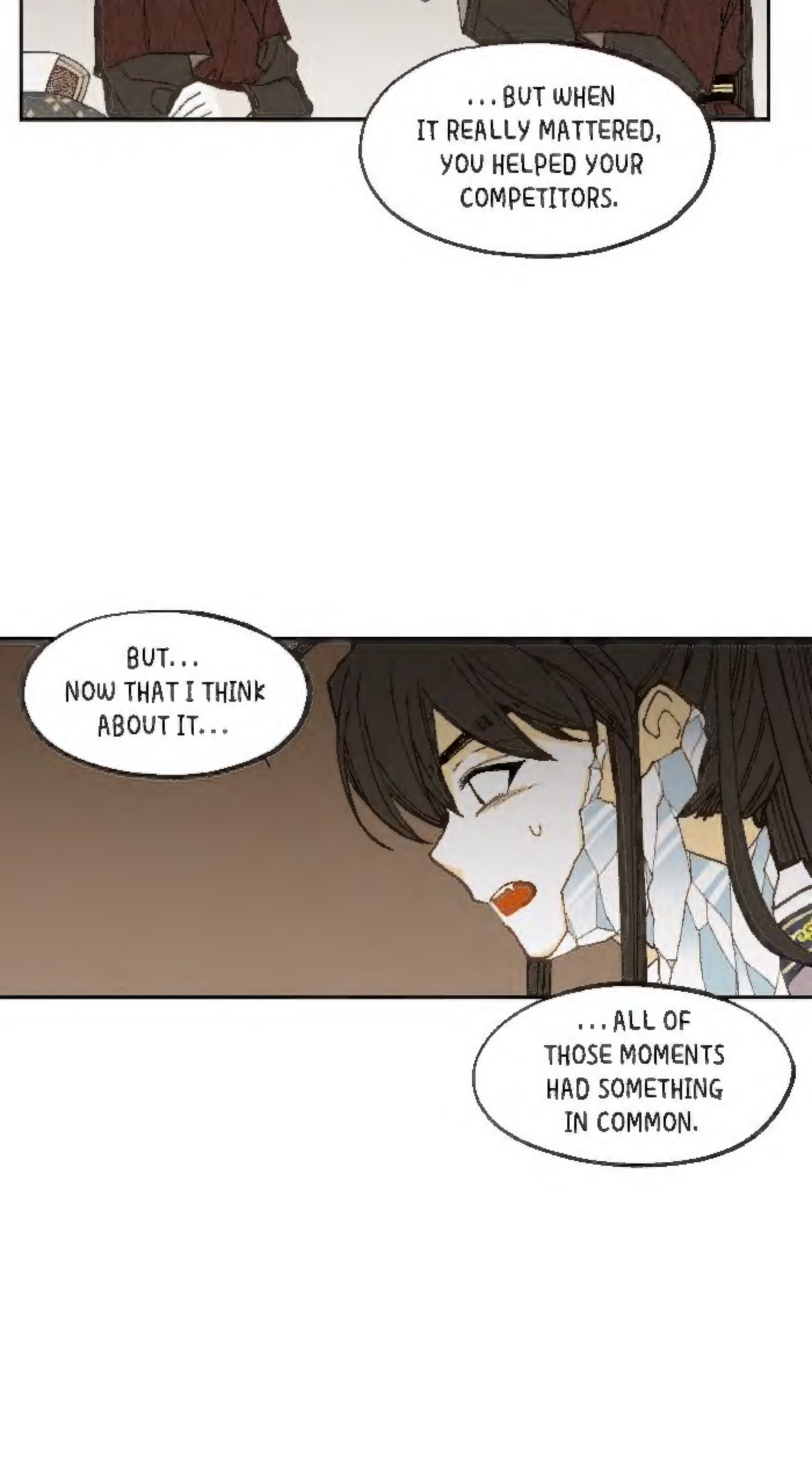
THE SECOND EXAM.
TO A HUMAN WOMAN.

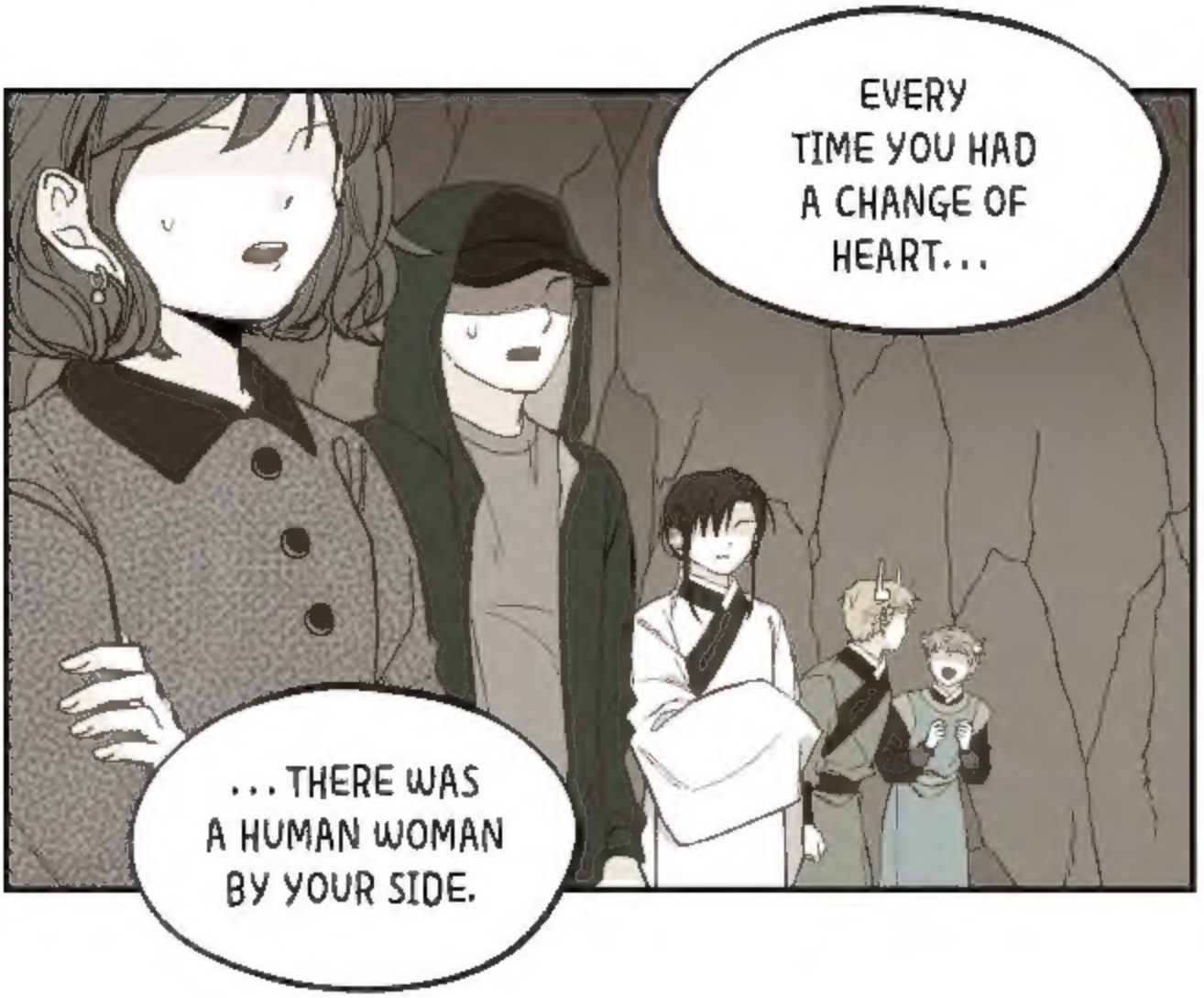
THE ONE WHO DIED TOO SOON...
...SWEPT AWAY BY THE TIDES OF TIME.

I ALWAYS WONDERED...
...ABOUT YOUR CONTRADICTORY BEHAVIOR.

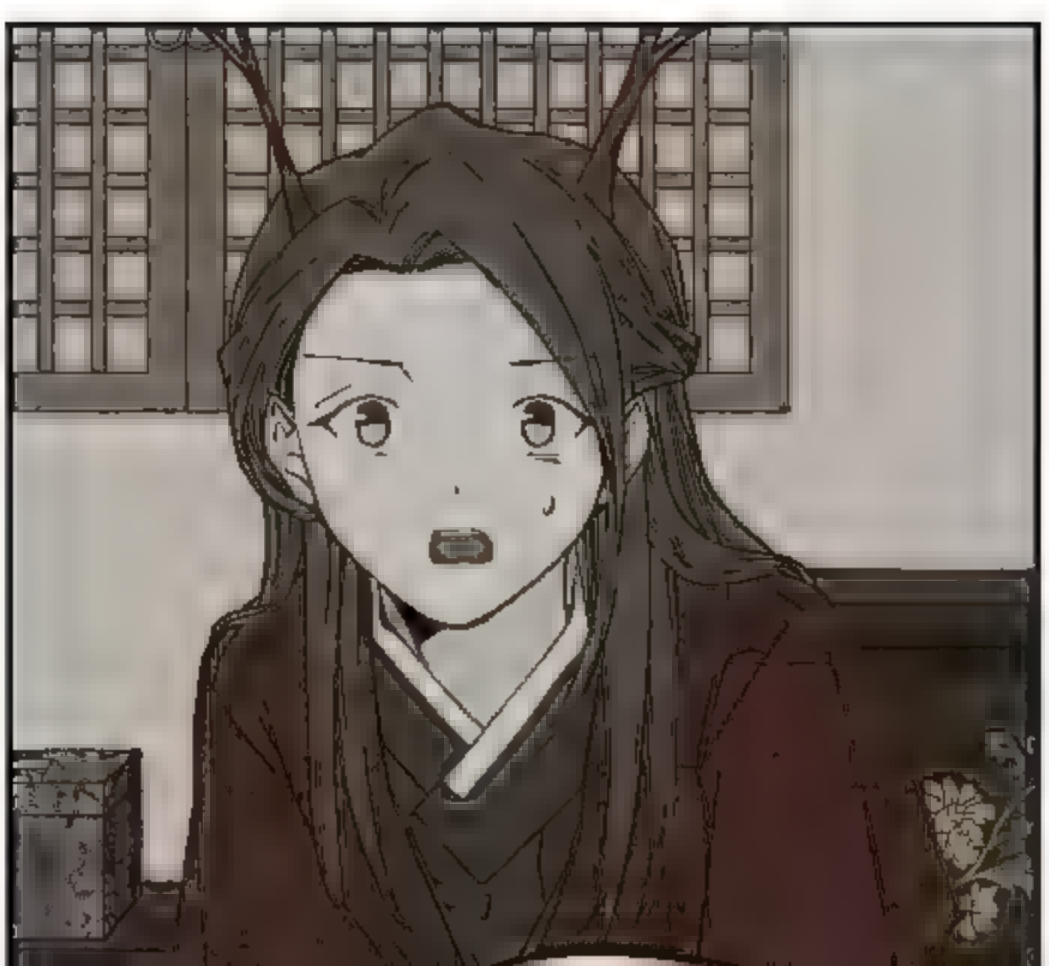

YOU WERE THE ONE WHO GAVE UP ON ASCENSION,
AND THEN YOU DECIDED TO TAKE THE EXAM AGAIN.
YOU REFUSED THE DRAGON KING'S BOON...


...AND YOU WERE DESPERATE ENOUGH TO GET INJURED DURING THE EXAM...


...BUT WHEN IT REALLY MATTERED, YOU HELPED YOUR COMPETITORS.
BUT... NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT...
...ALL OF THOSE MOMENTS HAD SOMETHING IN COMMON.


EVERY TIME YOU HAD A CHANGE OF HEART...
...THERE WAS A HUMAN WOMAN BY YOUR SIDE.

YOU SAW...



...THE OWNER OF THE TRINKET IN THEM, DIDN'T YOU?
NO...
YOU WERE WAITING.

WAITING FOR THE REINCARNATION...
...OF THAT LONG-DEAD WOMAN.

YOU WAITED...
...AND WAITED...

...AND WAITED...
...AND WAITED...

...AND NOW...
...YOU'VE GIVEN UP ON WAITING.

THAT IS WHY YOU KEPT LINGERING AROUND YEONGNO AND DAMSEOL...
...AND SAID THOSE MYSTERIOUS THINGS.

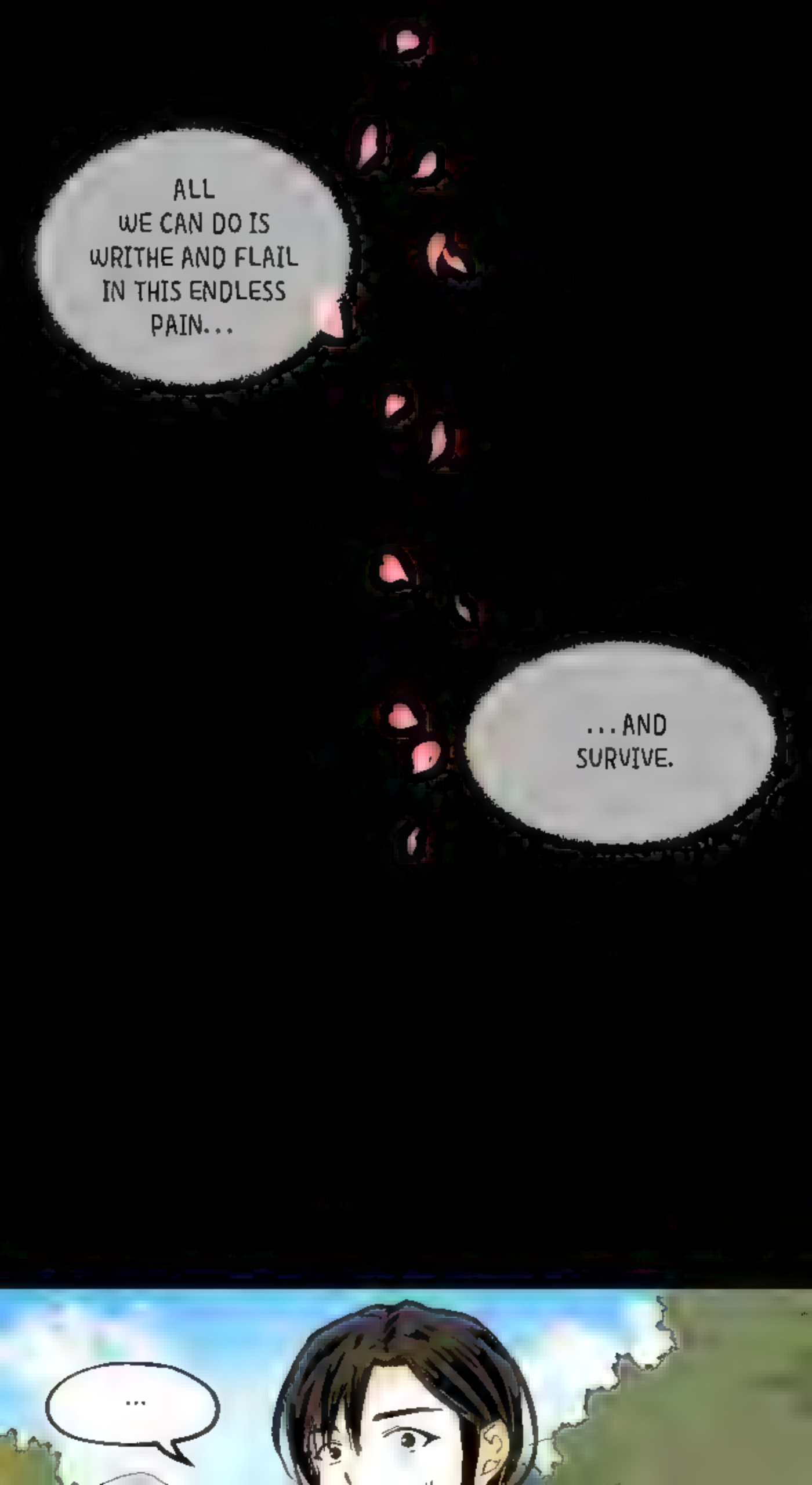
WE ARE IMMORTAL NOW...

...SO WE FEAR DEATH LESS...
...BUT IF WE FAIL THIS EXAM...
...WOULDN'T LIVING BE A FAR WORSE PUNISHMENT THAN DEATH?

TO THINK YOU WOULD DO SOMETHING SO FOOLISH...
...EVEN AS A DRAGON.
I AM SURE YOU KNOW...
THAT AN IMMORTAL CREATURE

CANNOT DIE.
I THOUGHT THAT IF I BECAME A DRAGON.
I COULD DIE.

TOSS
NOT A CHANCE, WITH SOMETHING LIKE THIS.
EVEN IF WE ARE PLUNGED INTO THE DEEPEST WATERS,
OR SURROUNDED BY FLAMES THAT ENGULF ENTIRE MOUNTAINS...
WE CANNOT DIE.

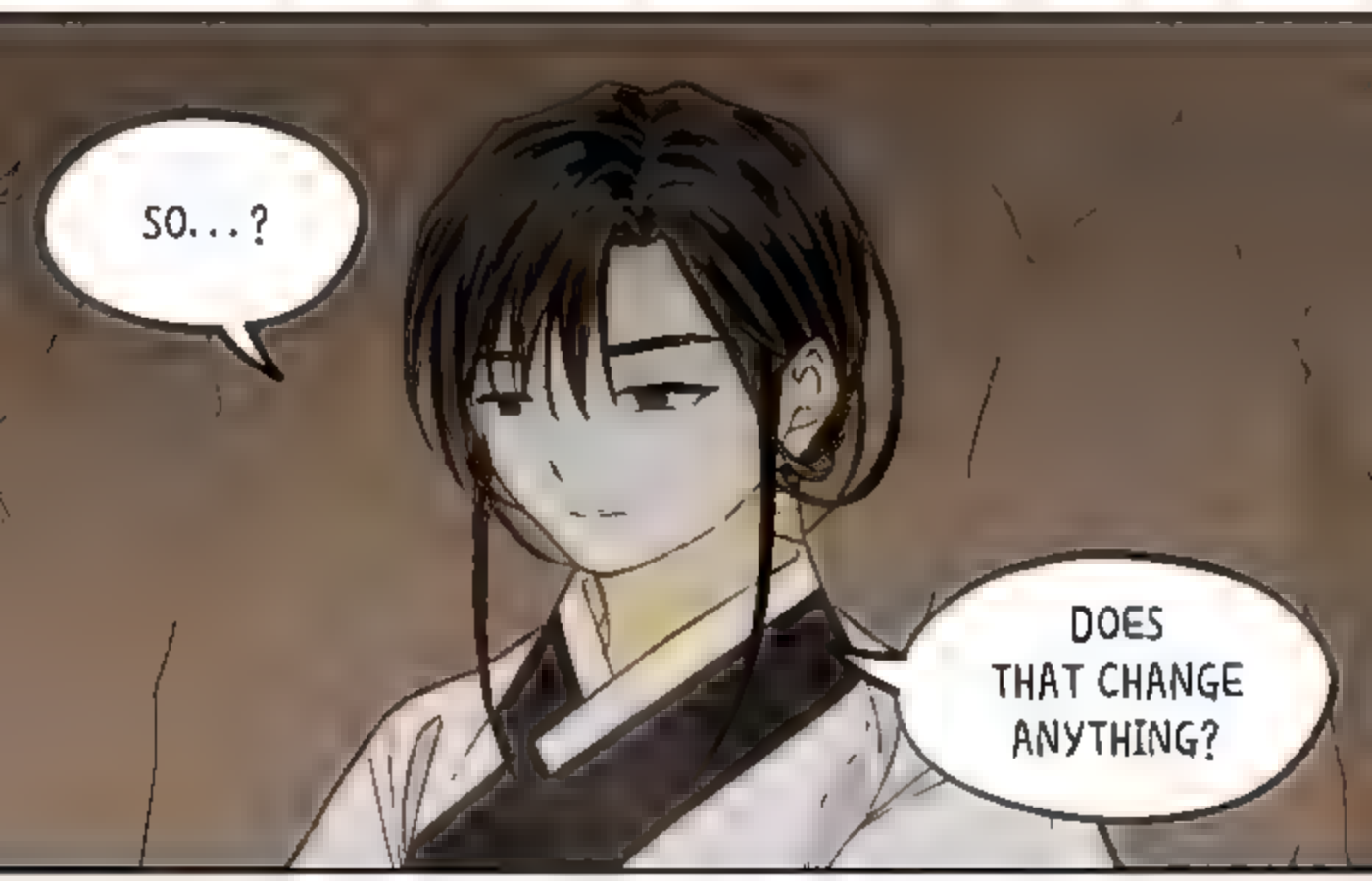

ALL WE CAN DO IS WRITHE AND FLAIL IN THIS ENDLESS PAIN...
...AND SURVIVE.
...

THE NAKDONG RIVER DRAGON PASSED AWAY?
YES, SIR!
THERE WILL BE AN EXAM TO CHOOSE THE NEW DRAGON SOON...

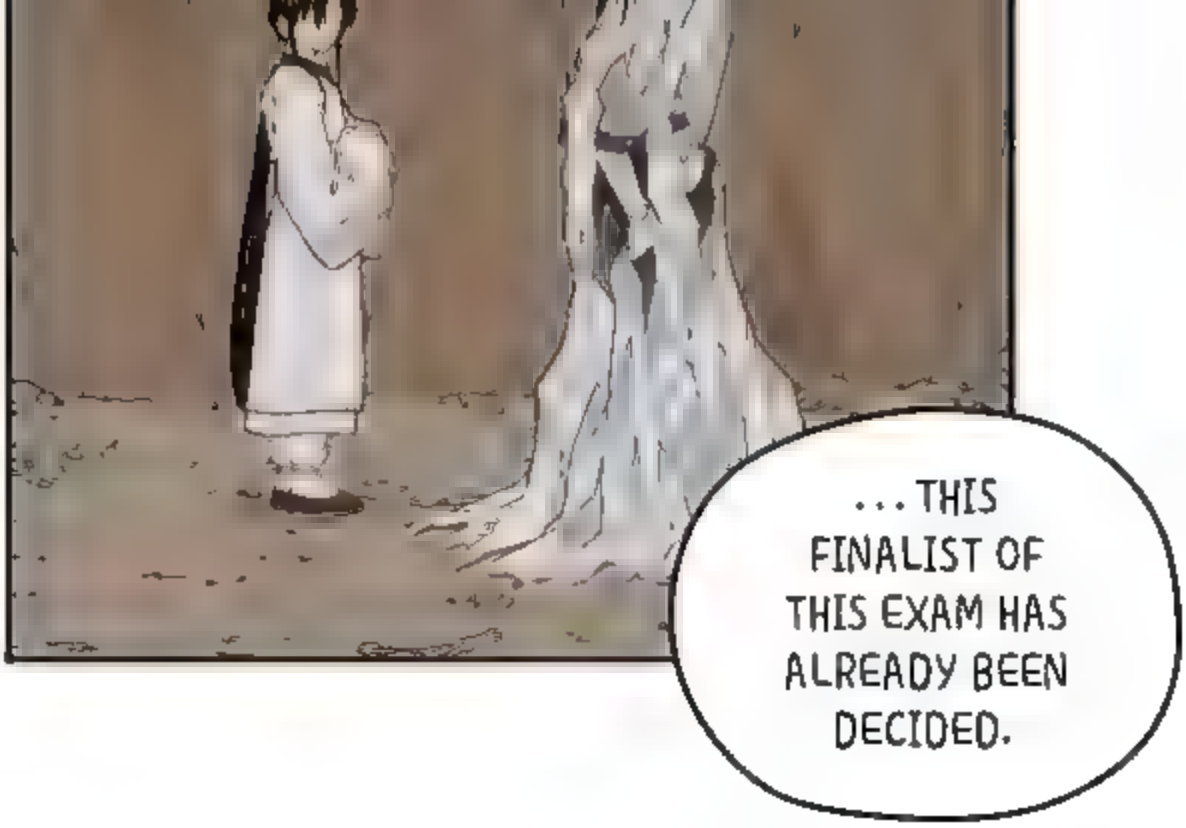
NONSENSE...
HOW WOULD A DRAGON, THE MOST POWERFUL OF IMMORTAL CREATURES, PASS AWAY?
IT'S TRUE, SIR!
THEY'VE ALREADY HELD THE FUNERAL.

CLATTER

A DRAGON...
...DIED...?


SO...?
DOES THAT CHANGE ANYTHING?

NO MATTER WHAT MY INTENTIONS ARE...

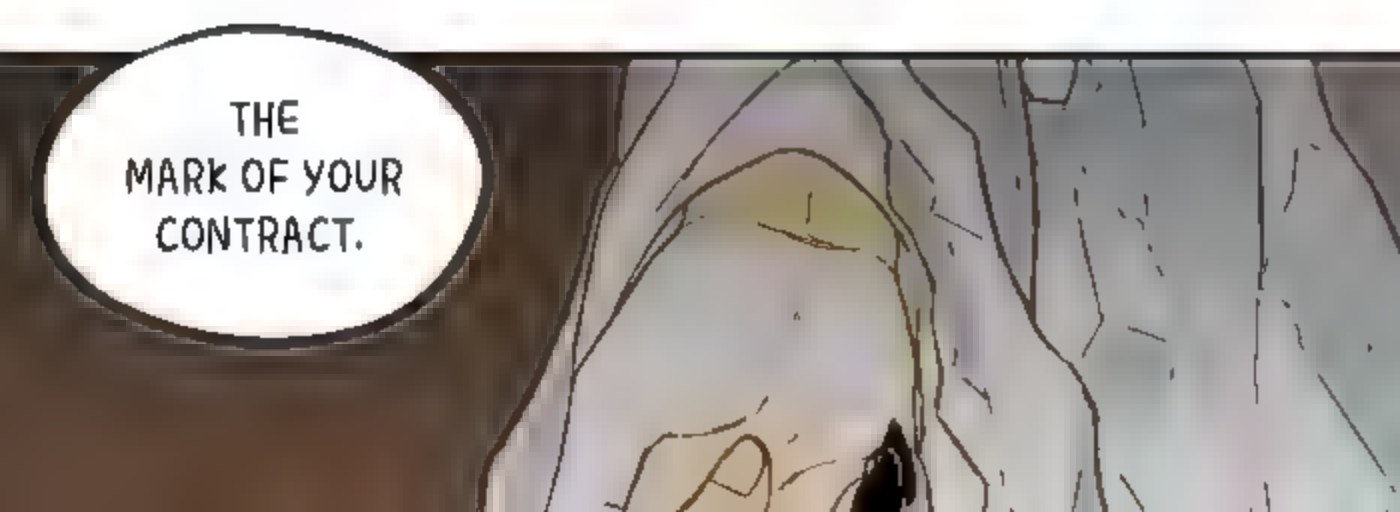

...THIS FINALIST OF THIS EXAM HAS ALREADY BEEN DECIDED.

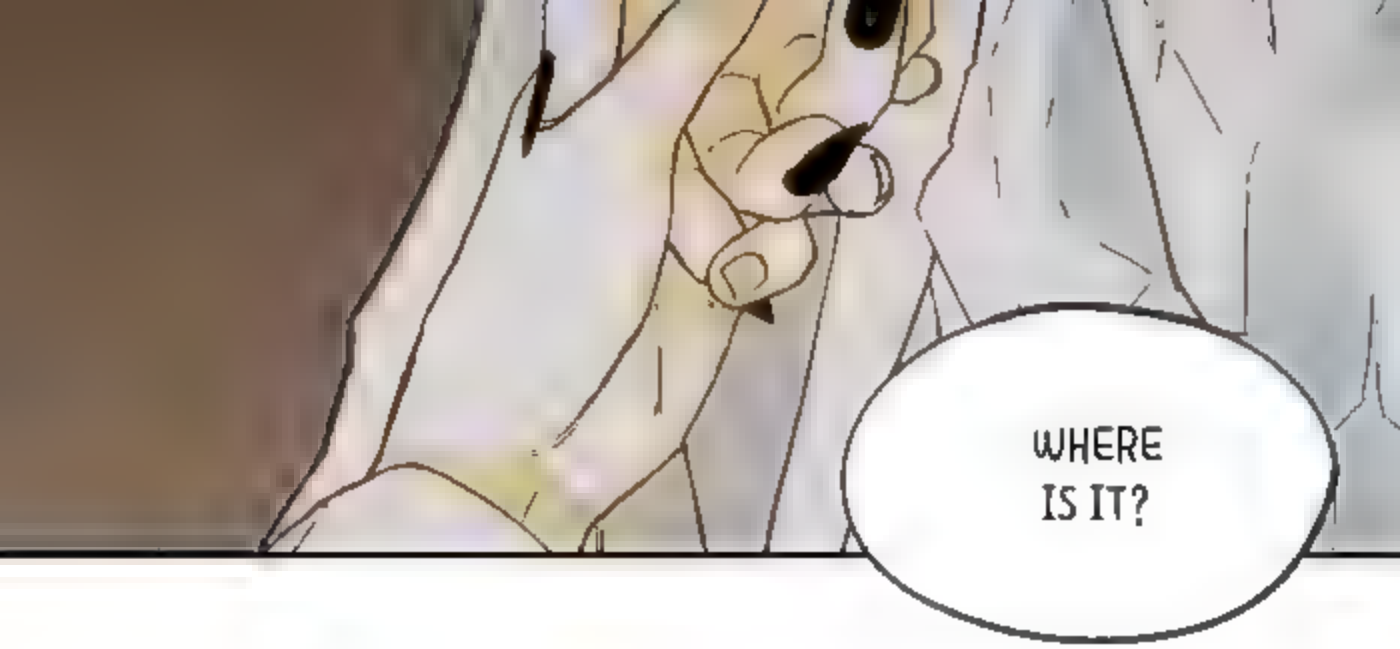
I CAN OPEN UP THAT HUMAN'S STOMACH...
SPLAT
OW!
...WHENEVER I PLEASE.

NOW...
REACH
...THERE IS ONLY ONE THING I NEED...

...!

WHERE IS IT?
WHAT?

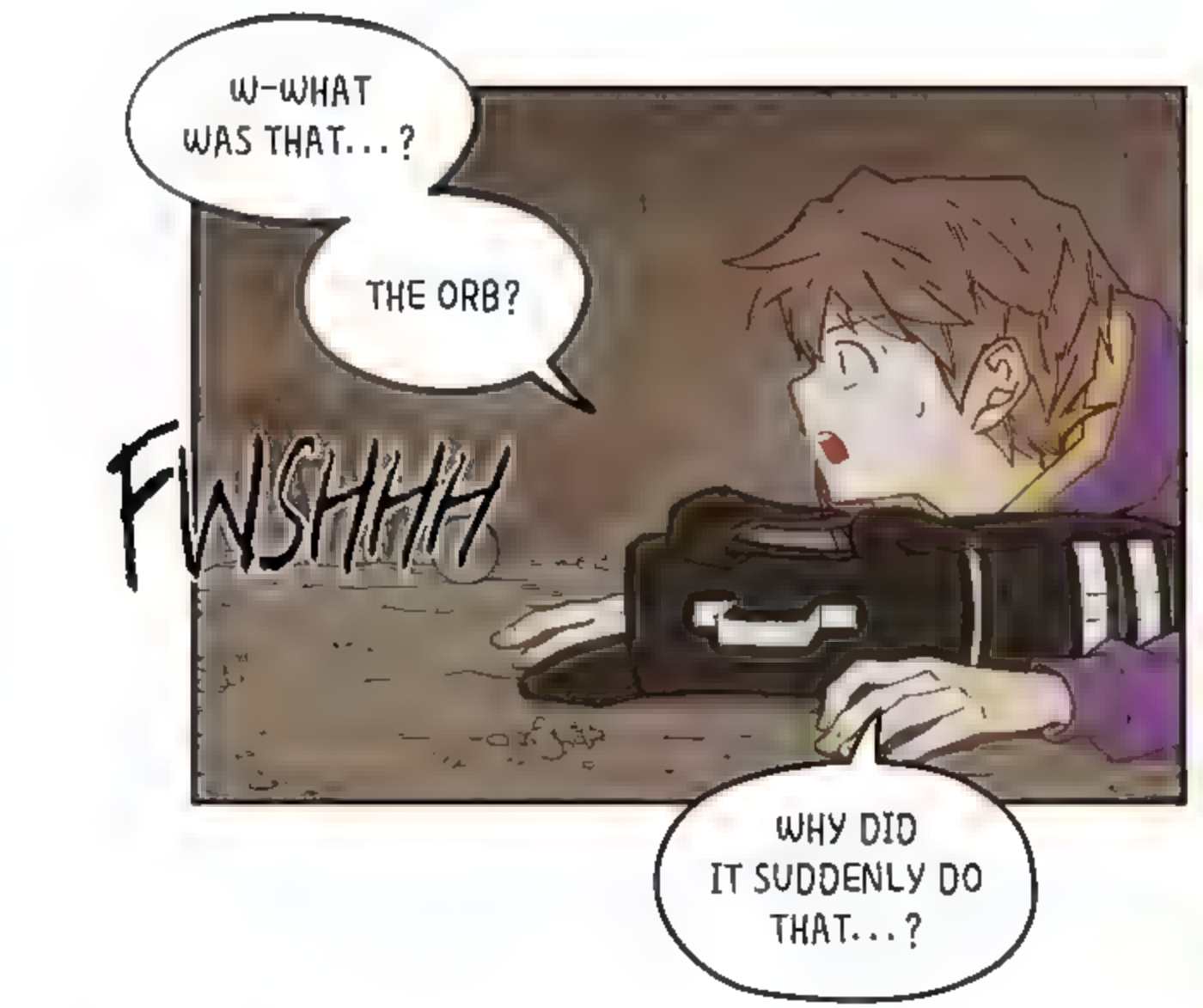

THE MARK OF YOUR CONTRACT.

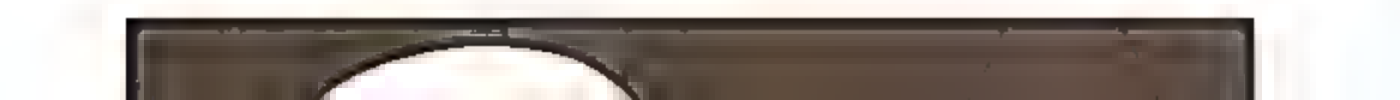

WHERE
IS IT?

THE CONTRACT?
WHY WOULD YOU
NEED--
THE MARK?

DON'T BE COY.
I'M CERTAIN YOU HAVE DAMSEOL'S--
PANG!

UGH...
THWACK


W-WHAT WAS THAT...?
THE ORB?
FWSHHH
WHY DID IT SUDDENLY DO THAT...?



THERE'S NO TIME.
IF YOU DON'T WANT TO BE BURIED ALIVE HERE, THEN HURRY...
AAH...!
GRAB
WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?

DAMSEOL'S HAIR!
I'M CERTAIN YOU HAVE IT ON

YOUR HAND...

YOU MUST NOT UNDERSTAND THE SITUATION WE'RE IN.

THIS IS NO TIME FOR LIES.

HISSSS

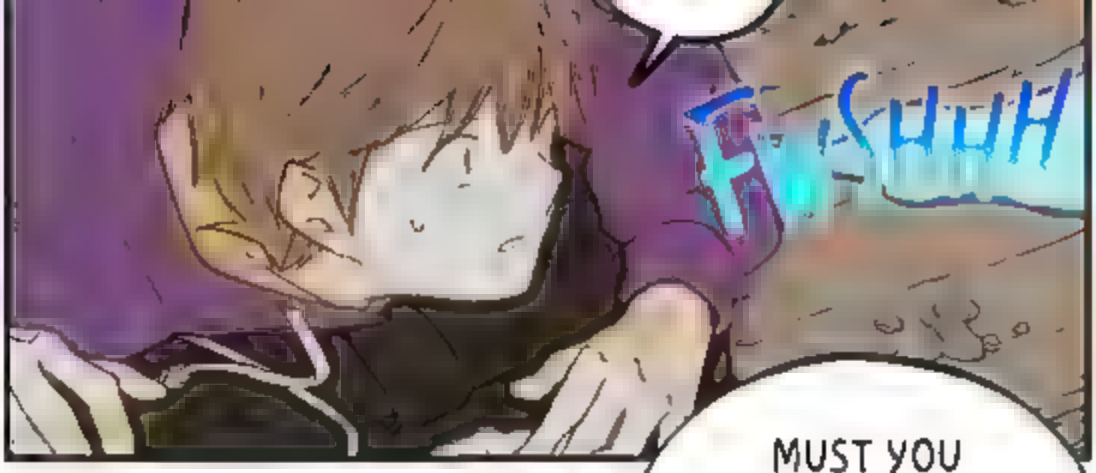
I AM NOT LYING!

EVEN IF YOU DON'T CARE ABOUT GETTING INJURED YOURSELF...

...I'M SURE YOU COULD NOT BEAR TO SEE THIS HUMAN DIE.

SWISHH

!



MUST YOU FORCE ME TO SHOW YOU SOMETHING TERRIBLE?

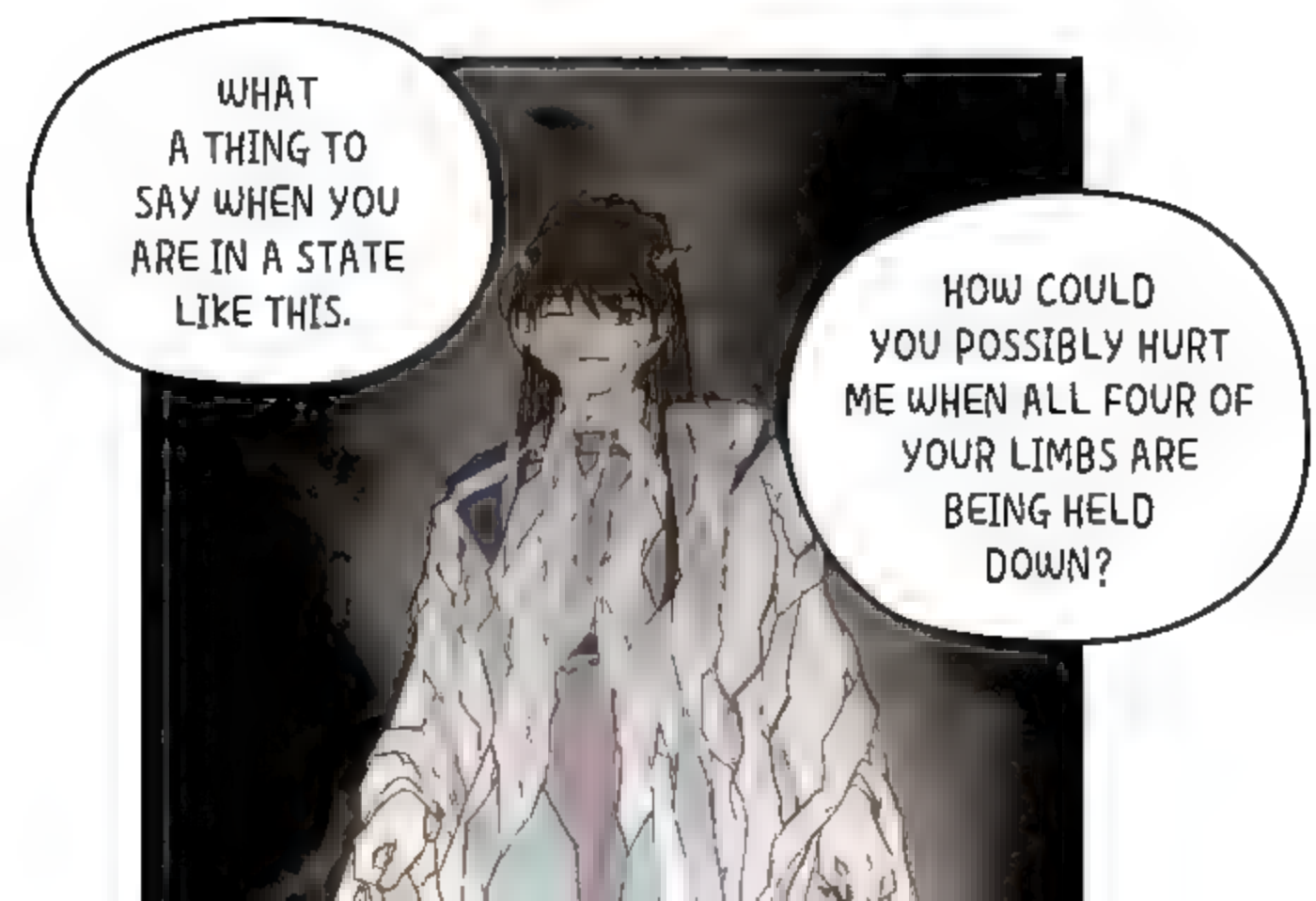
I'M TELLING THE TRUTH!

HOW COULD I GIVE YOU SOMETHING I DO NOT HAVE?

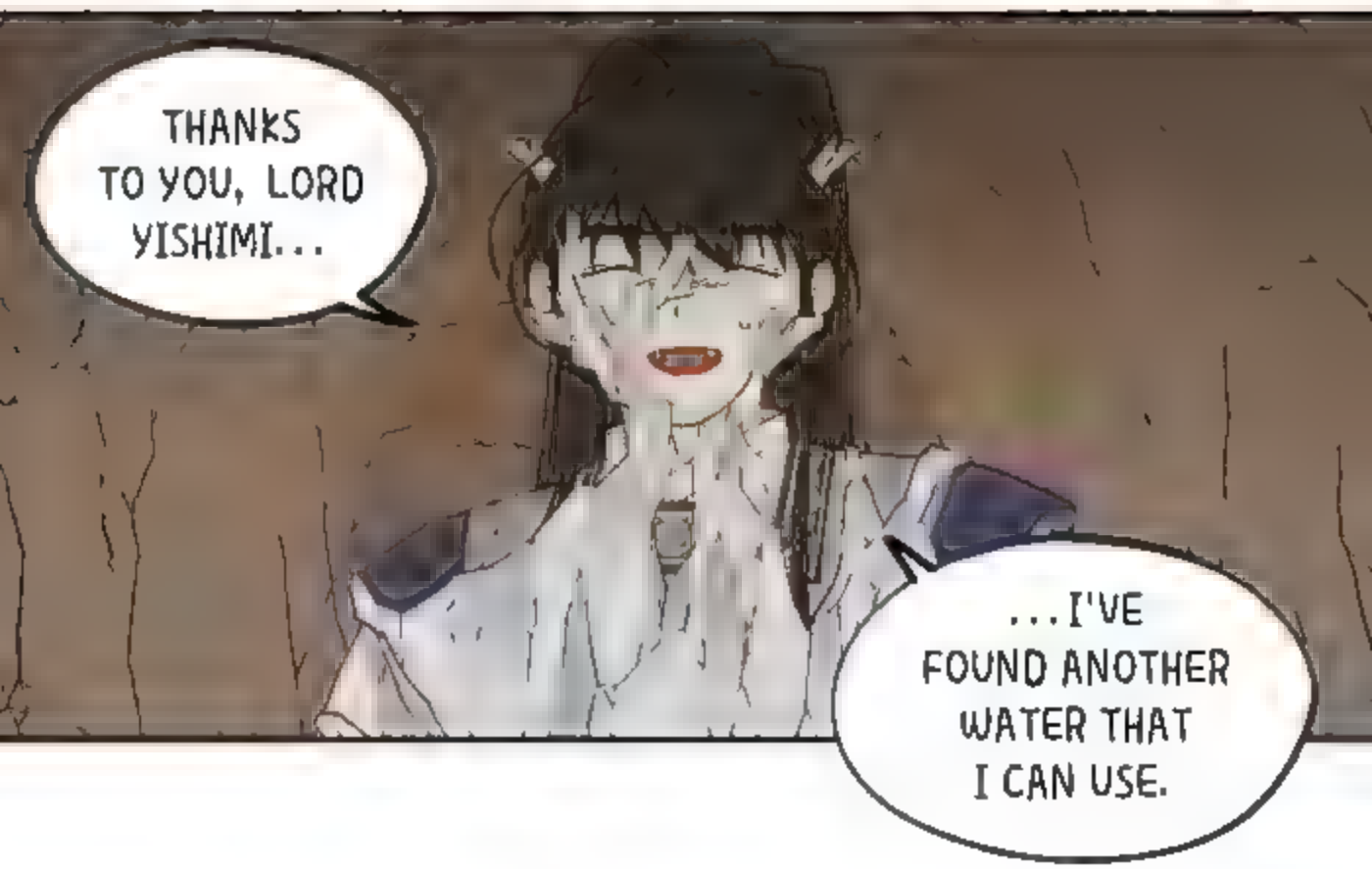
EEk...

STOP!
I DO NOT WISH TO HURT YOU, LORD YISHIMI!

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE HAIR?
HOW WOULD YOU HURT ME?


WHAT A THING TO SAY WHEN YOU ARE IN A STATE LIKE THIS.
HOW COULD YOU POSSIBLY HURT ME WHEN ALL FOUR OF YOUR LIMBS ARE BEING HELD DOWN?

WITH WIND? CLOUDS? LIGHTING? NONE OF THOSE THINGS ARE YOUR FORTE.
AND AS YOU CAN SEE...
...ALL OF THE WATER IN THIS PLACE IS MINE.


THANKS TO YOU, LORD YISHIMI...
...I'VE FOUND ANOTHER WATER THAT I CAN USE.

DRIP

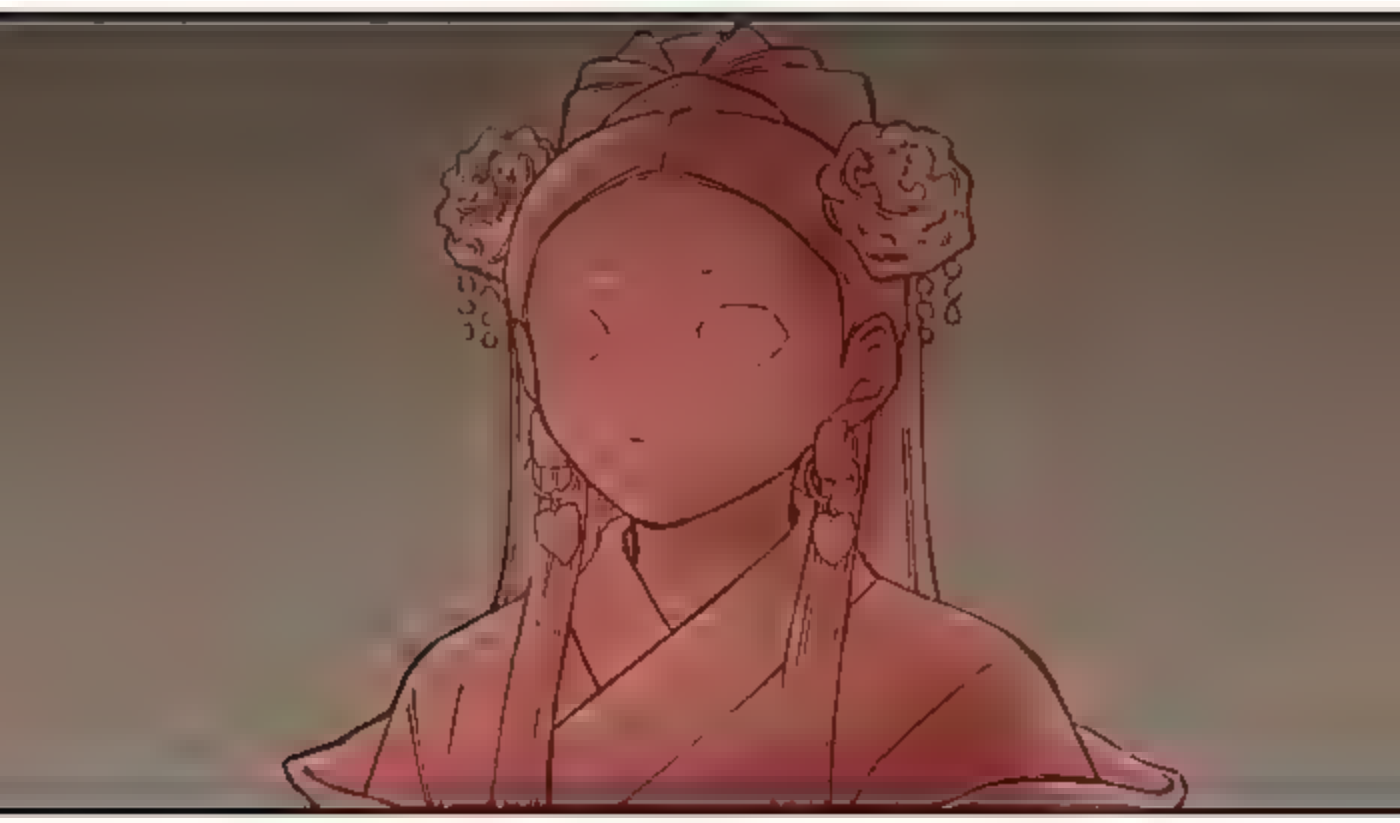
DRIP
SPURT

BLOOD...?
HOW FOOLISH...

...!

THAT'S...

...MADE
OF BLOOD...



HAH...
ARE YOU SAYING THAT THIS WILL HURT ME?

IF YOUR INTENTION WAS TO MAKE ME ANGRY...
CRACK
CRRRACK
...YOU CERTAINLY HAVE SUCCEEDED.

LITTLE TRICKS LIKE THIS...

DRIP
?
ONLY MAKE ME ANGRIER...
VERY WELL. HOW ARE YOU GOING TO ATTACK ME...
THWIP
...WITH THAT MERE LUMP OF BLOOD?

THWIP
AS YOU SAID...
...I AM NOT TERRIBLY SKILLED AT ANYTHING. HOW COULD I DARE ATTACK YOU?

ALL I DID WAS COVER YOUR EYES...
TREMBLE

SQUEEZE
...AND BUY SOME TIME.

FWSHHHH

W...

WATER DROPLETS...?

LRRRACK
LRRRACK
CRASH

CRASH

CRRRACK
THIS...
ISN'T WATER...
CRRRACK

IT IS SAP.
CRRRACK
CRACK

SAP
FROM THE TREE
ROOTS...
CRRRACK

CRRACK
CRRACK
...THAT SURROUND THIS PLACE.